GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1156
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2000
POWAI LAKE
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have finalized the action plan to save Powai lake;

(b) if so, whether the Powai Lake, Mumbai is included in the National Conservation Plan;

(c) if so, whether his Ministry has taken up the subject with Maharashtra Government and Mumbai Municipal Corporation;

(d) if so, the details of the Powai Lake Project;

(e) the sources through which the amount is likely to be arranged for the Project;

(f) whether local encroachment and influx of sewage and polluted water into the Powai Lake has almost dampen one-third of the Powai Lake area;
(g) if so, whether his Ministry has issued instructions to the Maharashtra Government and Mumbai Municipal Corporation to stop quarring and to remove encroachment and other hurdles;
(h) if so, whether the State Government and Mumbai Municipal Corporation have implemented the instructions; and
(i) if so, the present status of Powai Lake Project?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a), (b) and (i) Powai Lake is one of the 10 identified urban lakes for conservation under the National Lake Conservation Plan. The Plan has not been approved by Government so far.

(c) to (d) The Government of Maharashtra have submitted a proposal for conservation of Powai Lake at an estimated cost of Rs. 10.50 crore. Out of this, a provision of about Rs. 6.0 crore has been proposed for conservation of lake and the remaining amount of about Rs. 4.5 crore for beautification of lake.

(e) Since the project is not approved so far, the question of its source of funding does not arise.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) The Government of Maharashtra and Maharashtra State Pollution Control Board were asked in December, 1998 to take immediate preventive and curative measures for control of pollution of the Powai Lake. The State Government was also asked to take immediate steps to remove encroachment from the catchment area of the Lake.

(h) Quarrying work has been stopped in the vicinity of Powai area by Collector, Suburban District, Mumbai.However, quarrying in Chandivali village is still going on as per High Court orders. At present there are no encroachments within the Powai Lake water shed area. The point sources polluting the lake are identified and works for abatement have been taken by Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai.